TIMEX SINCLAIR USERS GROUP - MILE HIGH CHAPTER JULY 1991

Mile High

C/O CURT CARLSON 601 S. GRANT ST. DENVER, CO. 80209
(303) 733-4391
MHTSUG meetings are usually the 4th Saturday of the month.
NEXT MEETING Saturday August 17, 1991 2 PM
at the address listed above.

MHTSUG maintains a sub-board on THE KINGS MARKET BBS.
(303)665-6091, 8-1-N, Accessible through PC-Pursuit.
MENU SELECTIONS TO GET TO THE SUB-BOARD ARE,
(1) CONTENTS
(2) INTERESTS & USERS GROUPS
(3) TIMEX-SINCLAIR
General messages for club members are addressed to "ALL"

FROM INTERNATIONAL QL REPORT VOL 1. No. 1

This is their inaugural issue. Published by SeaCoast Services, Robert Dyl, Sr., Editor. It will appear 4 to 6 times a year, at a cost of $3.00/ issue or $10.00 in the U.S./Yr.

MIRACLE GOLD CARD.

Miracle Systems of U.K. announced the first shipments of their new SUPER interface. The GOLD CARD fits within the QL's expansion port, the CMOS components generate very little heat and consume minimum power. A 68000 16 bit processor operating at 16 megahertz utilizes its own 16 bit zero wait RAM, claiming to be between 3 and 4 times the speed of the original QL without the interface. The card has a real time clock with battery, 2 Megabytes of memory, a disk drive interface and Tool Kit II. Up to 3 drives of any combination (720K-1.44Mbyte-3.2Mbyte) can be accessed.

Development of a GRAPHICS CARD is reported to be underway. The GOLD CARD is said to be compatable with the TRUMP CARD so previous files and data will be usable.

MINERVA ROM UPGRADE

QVIEW announced its latest version of its ROM upgrade, Version 1.89, incorporating a Realtime Clock with bufer, I2C BUS Interface.

INTERGROUP FREEWARE EXCHANGE

SINCLAIR QL USER CLUB e.v. (SQLUC) of Germany, announced the establishment of a library open to QL users groups worldwide. A 15DM average fee is required, plus freeware submittions. The present library exceeds 38 Megabytes on 160 disks.

"QL SURVIVORS SOURCE BOOK", is a project of SeaCoast QL Users Group. Available from UPDATE MAGAZINE, for $5.00 plus $2.00 shipping.

QL KEYBOARD 90 INTERFACE from COMPUTER TECHNIK one version requires that the 8049 IC be removed and reinstalled on the new board and plug the interface into the QL's 8049 socket, a cable then feeds out to the expansion slot.

The second version has an external box containing the interface, the 8049 IC still must be relocated onto the interface. Any PC style keyboard can then be connected to the interface. Group orders can be made to save on handling fees and perhaps postage.

A Letter dated August 2. 1991 from William J. Pedersen was received along with some very impressive Mandelbrot graphic screen printouts and a demo disk. The demo disk shows what the WIDJUP Co. has---

TS BULLETIN by Bill Harmer

Back issues and July,1991 publication, now in MHTSUG library. With seven articles; DEC PDP=8 OS influence on todays computing. Sinclair Programming Notes - Making A Command Line Interface. Terminals From Beginning To End. Fixing The Loose Jack Problem on the ZX81/TS1000. Sinclair News & Views, Updates. ASCII Questions Answered. Editorial.

ZXir QLive Alive (Timex/Sinclair NorthAmerican User Groups Newsletter) C/O Don Lambert, ZXir QLive Alive! Newsletter, 1301 Kiblinger Pl., Auburn, IN 46706. Summer 1991 issue contains many news items, vender addresses, hardware modifications and tips, reviews and ads.

SLIX (SincLair Information eXchange)
William W. Miller, Cupertino, California, brought attention to an error in the last MHTSUG Newsletter.

CORRECTION
In, Mail Received, an incorrect address appeared for Robin Stevenson. The correct address is:
R. J. Stevenson
Kairos Computer Solutions
552 Bradgate Road
Newtown Linford
Leicestershire
LE6 0HB
ENGLAND.

Thank You for pointing out the error. I apologize for not catching that in proofing.
I also will include Dr.Bhatti's address for those interested in responding to his efforts in beginning a, "Mega-SuperQL", project.

Dr. Schail S. Bhatti
4 Wasdale Avenue
Park View
Blackburn BB1 1XD
ENGLAND

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MILE HIGH TIMEX SINCLAIR USERS GROUP NEWS
MHTSUG July 27th MEETING/FAIR. By Curt Carlson

Last month's meeting started at 5 P.M. instead of 2 P.M. as planned, and adjourned at 1:30 A.M. All those present were overwhelmed at all the Timex/Sinclair related hardware, software and advanced technology Andy Hradesky had collected and presented. Everything from his Sinclair watch radio and flat screen TV to the QL was shown. This included a ZX80, ZX81/TS1000, TS2068, PS2068, QL (U.S. and British version), and disk drives, stringy floppies, etc. The Portugese and British versions were examined and compared with the American production units. It was clearly obvious that many jumper wires, tacked on modifications and FCC required changes made the domestic versions look like prototype units.

Several original Timex/Sinclair users were present, some have joined the Amega and Apple camp, but couldn't pass up the chance to attend this meeting. All present were very impressed with the QL's capabilities. Andy Hradesky, from Colorado Springs, had loaded his new Saturn vehicle to the headliner with just SOME of his T/S collection and drove over 60 miles north to my house for the meeting. Others had come 40 miles from the foothills and 60 miles north from Ft. Collins. Many of the users have had their minds turned by Timex/Sinclair computers for years, (even as far back as ZX80 and MICROACE kits), yet everyone still found many new and exciting things continuing in the support and advancement of all Sinclair related computing. So much is here and available in the way of sharing great knowledge, finding resources and offering help to everyone. Those that could not be there last month, will learn that they missed, "The Show of Shows".

This month's meeting will bring forth a purpose and structure for future meetings. Time will be scheduled to demonstrate some of the ZX81/TS1000 high resolution graphic capabilities and the TS2068 Video Digitizing will also present some interesting graphic displays. See you there. -CTC-

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Mile High

THE 2968 VIDEO DIGITIZER by Curt Carlson

Last month I tried to show what can be done with the Digitizer circuit and two sources of software to run it. Every software program, (among all else in this world), has limitations, and the writer also had limitations to work with when developing the software, so we as the end user must make the most of what we get and maybe improve on it ourselves.

Both the 2068 and dot matrix printers define the smallest single dark or light image attainable as a pixel. In digitizing with the 2068 it is the problem of the software to simulate using only pixels to represent a scanned video image. The original scanned image is not usually a pattern of dots, but a series of stacked lines of various shades of light or dark and most likely containing a color or hue. To simulate this shading requires a group of pixels forming a pattern, that when viewed at a distance, appear to blend into a shade of gray or if the dots are of different colors blend into a certain hue and density of color. Some groups of pixels, produced by the program, actually form PATTERNS that require extra effort by the viewer to blend. The patterns formed often look like the weave and warp of cloth. Any repeated pattern can easily be viewed by the human eye. Therefore a good program must generate the viewed gray scale by grouping the pixel dots to avoid a visible pattern. This can be done by selecting dark pixels along the edge of the group to only coincide with light pixels. If two or more dots are placed together, then the eye will see the cluster as a larger dot.

I just received a letter and enclosed DEMO from William J. Pedersen, "which prints out to any EPSON compatible printer", a much more improved graphic display using the TS2068. The WIDJUP Co. has a program to generate 16 shades of gray using a grouping of 16 pixels called, "SIXELS", by Mr. Pedersen. I have not been able to run the DEMO yet, but will do so before next month and let you know what it is like. -CTC-